

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 5-10, 12, 15, 16, 18-21, 23 and 24 as follows.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A shock absorber which compensates for thermal expansion, said shock absorber comprising:

a rod guide assembly;

a pressure tube forming a compression chamber, said pressure tube slidingly engaging said rod guide assembly;;

a piston slidably disposed within said compression chamber;

a piston rod connected to said piston;

a reserve tube disposed around said pressure tube, said reserve tube and said pressure tube defining a fluid reservoir; and

a cylinder end assembly disposed between said compression chamber and said fluid reservoir for controlling the flow of fluid between said compression chamber and said fluid reservoir, said pressure tube slidingly engaging said cylinder end assembly:

said floating pressure tube being able to move freely relative to said rod guide assembly and said cylinder[[.]] end assembly.

2. (original) The shock absorber according to Claim 1, wherein said pressure tube slidingly engages said cylinder end assembly.

3. (currently amended) The shock absorber according to Claim 1, ~~further comprising a rod guide assembly,~~ wherein said pressure tube slidably engaging engages said rod guide assembly.

4. (original) The shock absorber according to Claim 3, wherein said pressure tube slidably engages said cylinder end assembly.

5. (currently amended) ~~A shock absorber which compensates for thermal expansion, said shock absorber comprising:~~

~~a pressure tube forming a compression chamber;~~

~~a piston slidably disposed within said compression chamber;~~

The shock absorber according to Claim 1, wherein said piston rod comprises:

a two-piece piston rod connected to said piston, said two-piece piston rod including a shaft and a piston post, said piston post being secured to said piston.

6. (currently amended) The shock absorber according to Claim 5, wherein said shaft is made from a first material and said ~~[[tip]]~~ piston post is made from a second material.

7. (currently amended) The shock absorber according to Claim 6, wherein said ~~[[tip]]~~ piston post is threaded such that it screws onto said shaft.

8. (currently amended) The shock absorber according to Claim 6, wherein said ~~[[tip]]~~ piston post is bonded to said shaft.

9. (currently amended) The shock absorber according to Claim 6, wherein said ~~[[tip]]~~ piston post is secured to said shaft by a circle-clip.

10. (currently amended) ~~A shock absorber which compensates for thermal expansion, said shock absorber comprising:~~

~~a pressure tube forming a compression chamber;~~

~~a piston slidably disposed within said compression chamber;~~

~~a piston rod connected to said piston;~~

~~a reserve tube disposed around said pressure tube, said reserve tube and said pressure tube defining a fluid reservoir;~~

~~a rod guide assembly defining an internal bore for receiving said piston rod for facilitating movement of said piston rod;~~

~~a cylinder end assembly disposed between said compression chamber and said fluid reservoir for controlling the flow of fluid between said compression chamber and said fluid reservoir; and~~

The shock absorber according to Claim 1 further comprising:

a biasing member disposed between said pressure tube and said rod guide assembly for urging said pressure tube away from said rod guide assembly.

11. (original) The shock absorber according to Claim 10, wherein said biasing member is at least one Belleville spring.

12. (currently amended) The shock absorber according to Claim 10, wherein a retainer is disposed between said rod guide assembly and said biasing member.

13. (original) The shock absorber according to Claim 10, wherein a retainer for supporting said biasing member is disposed between said biasing member and said pressure tube.

14. (original) The shock absorber according to Claim 13, wherein said rod guide assembly further includes a bushing for facilitating movement of said piston rod.

15. (currently amended) The shock absorber according to Claim 14, wherein [[said]] a retainer retains said bushing.

16. (currently amended) ~~A shock absorber which compensates for thermal expansion, said shock absorber comprising:~~

~~a pressure tube forming a compression chamber;~~

~~a piston slidably disposed within said compression chamber;~~

~~a piston rod connected to said piston;~~

~~a reserve tube disposed around said pressure tube, said reserve tube and said pressure tube defining a fluid reservoir;~~

~~a base valve assembly disposed between said compression chamber and said fluid reservoir for controlling the flow of fluid between said compression chamber and said fluid reservoir; and~~

The shock absorber according to Claim 1 further comprising:

a biasing member disposed between said pressure tube and said ~~base valve~~ cylinder end assembly for urging said pressure tube away from said ~~base valve~~ cylinder end assembly.

17. (original) The shock absorber according to Claim 16, wherein said biasing member is a Belleville spring.

18. (currently amended) The shock absorber according to Claim 17, wherein said Belleville spring is secured to said ~~base valve~~ cylinder end assembly by a circle-clip.

19. (currently amended) The shock absorber according to Claim 17, wherein said spring is secured to said ~~base valve~~ cylinder end assembly by a spring retainer.

20. (currently amended) The shock absorber according to Claim 17, wherein said spring is disposed between two radial retainers secured to the ~~base valve~~ cylinder end assembly.

21. (currently amended) The shock absorber according to Claim 16, wherein said ~~base valve~~ cylinder end assembly has two portions, a top portion connected to said pressure tube and a bottom portion connected to said reserve tube, said top portion slidably engaging said bottom portion.

22. (original) The shock absorber according to Claim 21, wherein said biasing member is disposed between said top portion and said bottom portion.

23. (currently amended) The shock absorber according to Claim 16, wherein said biasing member and one end of said pressure tube are disposed within said ~~base valve~~ cylinder end assembly.

24. (currently amended) ~~A shock absorber which compensates for thermal expansion, said shock absorber comprising:~~

~~a pressure tube forming a compression chamber;~~

~~a piston slidably disposed within said compression chamber;~~

~~a piston rod connected to said piston;~~

~~a reserve tube disposed around said pressure tube, said reserve tube and said pressure tube defining a fluid reservoir;~~

~~a base valve assembly disposed between said compression chamber and said fluid reservoir for controlling the flow of fluid between said compression chamber and said fluid reservoir;~~

The shock absorber according to Claim 1 further comprising:

a base plate slidably engaging said reserve tube adjacent said ~~base-valve~~
cylinder end assembly; and

a biasing member disposed between said base plate and an end of said
reserve tube for urging said base plate away from said end of said reserve tube.

25. (original) The shock absorber according to Claim 24, wherein said biasing
member is a Belleville spring.

26. (original) The shock absorber according to Claim 24, wherein said biasing
member is an elastomeric block.

27. (original) The shock absorber according to Claim 24, wherein said biasing
member is a pressurized gas.